



# THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Office of the Superintendent*

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*Toni Jones, Superintendent*

## REVISED MEMORANDUM

**To:** Building Principals  
**From:** Toni Jones  
**Date:** September 4, 2019  
**Re:** Jewish Holidays – 2019-20 School Year

Accommodating students and their families who celebrate religious holidays other than those celebrated by the majority of our students requires sensitivity, good judgment and some understanding of the significance of the holiday celebration to those students and their families. The main group to whom this applies is our Jewish students.

**Rosh Hashanah** begins at sundown on Sunday, September 29 and ends at sunset on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. This holiday is an important celebration of the Jewish New Year. While some Jewish families celebrate this holiday on one day, others celebrate it on two days, September 30 and October 1. No after-school activities will be scheduled for September 30, 2019. Athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates but athletic practices will be permitted on October 1, 2019. Tests or major assignments should not be given, or due, on these dates.

**Yom Kippur** is a solemn “high holy day” celebrated this year beginning at sundown on Tuesday, October 8 and ending at sunset on Wednesday, October 9, 2019. Athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates and tests or major assignments should not be given, or due immediately following these dates.

In addition to testing, athletic competitions, and homework assignments, there should not be school meetings or PTA meetings scheduled during either of these two holidays as these are considered to be the highest Jewish holy days of the year.

The only other Jewish holiday that has particular import relative to school is **Passover**. The first and second evenings of this holiday are typically celebrated with a Seder, a large evening meal with special prayers. This year the first two nights of Passover occur on Wednesday, April 8, 2019 and Thursday, April 9, 2019. As during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, athletic competitions should not be scheduled on these dates.

Provided below is a list of the major Jewish holidays. The ones which have the greatest significance and affect most students or staff are the ones that are described above. Additional holidays listed below are celebrated by very observant Jews. Please work with the individual families to support their religious practices.

**2019-20 Jewish Holidays\***

Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, September 29 – Tuesday, October 1, 2019
Yom Kippur	Tuesday, October 8 – Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Sukkoth	Sunday, October 13 – Sunday, October 20, 2019
Shemini Atzeret	Sunday, October 20 – Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Simchat Torah	Monday, October 21 – Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Hanukkah	Sunday, December 22 – Monday, December 30, 2019
Pesach (Passover)	Wednesday, April 8 – Thursday, April 16, 2020
Shavout	Thursday, May 28 – Friday, May 29, 2020

\*Jewish Holidays begin at Sundown on the night before the first day

C: Cabinet  
Athletic Director  
GEA President